

MINUTES

Seattle Human Rights Commission Meeting

Thursday, August 5, 2010, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Boards and Commissions Room L280

600 4th Avenue, City Hall

Commissioners Present: Jesse Aspuria, Damien Carter, Nika Dahlbacka, Frances Donegan-Ryan, Andrew Lewis, Merri Ann Osborne, Mike Peters, Mica Powers, Arthur Shwab, Roz Solomon, Chris Stearns, Keith Toussaint, Jennifer Yogi

Commissioners by Phone: Marty Penner

Commissioners Absent: Jessica Andrade

SOCR Staff Present: Felicia Yearwood, Nolan Lim

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: August 5, 2010 minutes were approved as read

Panel Discussion: At-Large Voting for City Council Members
Joaquin Avila, Gary Keese, Ian Warner

- Minority vote dilution can occur in situations of racially polarized voting in an at-large system, which excludes minority candidates; conversion to district voting usually results in greater inclusion.
- Mitigation efforts may include increased responsiveness, resource allocation, and appointments.
- Political integration encourages cohesion and leadership development; communities can benefit from proactive self assessment.
- City of Sunnyside cited as an example, where town with 75% Latino population consistently elected zero or one Latino council members. Since, the town has elected a Latino mayor and one Latino council member.
- District voting could be established in Seattle by a charter amendment proposed by the city council or by citizen petition.

SOCR Report: Nolan Lim

- OCR continues to follow up on criminal records as a protected class
- One fair housing case is expected to go to the hearing examiner. The SHRC appeals committee should identify two commissioners to sit on the review panel.

Elections: Roslyn Solomon Chair; Chris Stearns Vice Chair; Andrew Lewis Secretary

Retreat: ad hoc committee formed; chair Andrew Lewis.

Nominating Committee: the Commission has one vacancy (Frances). Three applications have been received.

Public Safety: Candlelight vigil for John T. Williams tomorrow. Chris Stearns will draft letter to Chief Diaz.

Appeals: Andrew Lewis will review September appeals in place of Frances.